

Notes

Ehretia grahamii (Boraginaceae): notes on distribution, habitat, variation and conservation status

Randell (1993) described as new *Ehretia grahamii* based on a type collected west of Sarina in central Queensland. *Ehretia grahamii* was stated to occur between Proserpine and Rockhampton in dry rainforests (synonymous with vinethickets and vineforests) on reddish stony soil or light clay. Randell made no comment on the conservation status of the new species and cited only five specimens additional to the type, despite having annotated other collections at BRI. *Ehretia grahamii* was subsequently listed with a conservation coding of R in Henderson (1994).

Recent dry rainforest surveys in central and north Queensland provide considerable new data on habitat and distribution. *Ehretia grahamii* is far more widespread than stated by Randell with a northern distributional record at Mingela Bluff southwest of Townsville and a southern distributional record at Targinie south of Rockhampton (previously listed in Forster *et al.* 1991). The species is known from at least 53 localities in eleven 1° grid cells (Map 1) and was present in 42 of 358 sites sampled in north Queensland dry rainforests (data base of Fensham in press). It is concluded that no conservation coding is warranted for this plant, although the species is undoubtedly critically endangered at certain localities due to continued clearing of dry rainforests for agricultural purposes.

Randell's short description appears to be based on few fertile collections. Some additional morphological description is now possible due to the increase in material available, notably... pedicels 1.8–2.5 mm long, 1.5–1.6 mm diameter; calyx 1.5–3 mm long; corolla 3–4.5 mm long, 4.5–5 mm diameter, lobes 2–2.5 mm long, 1–1.2 mm wide; filaments 2–3 mm long; fruits subconical, 5–6 mm long, 6–7 mm diameter, fleshy, red.

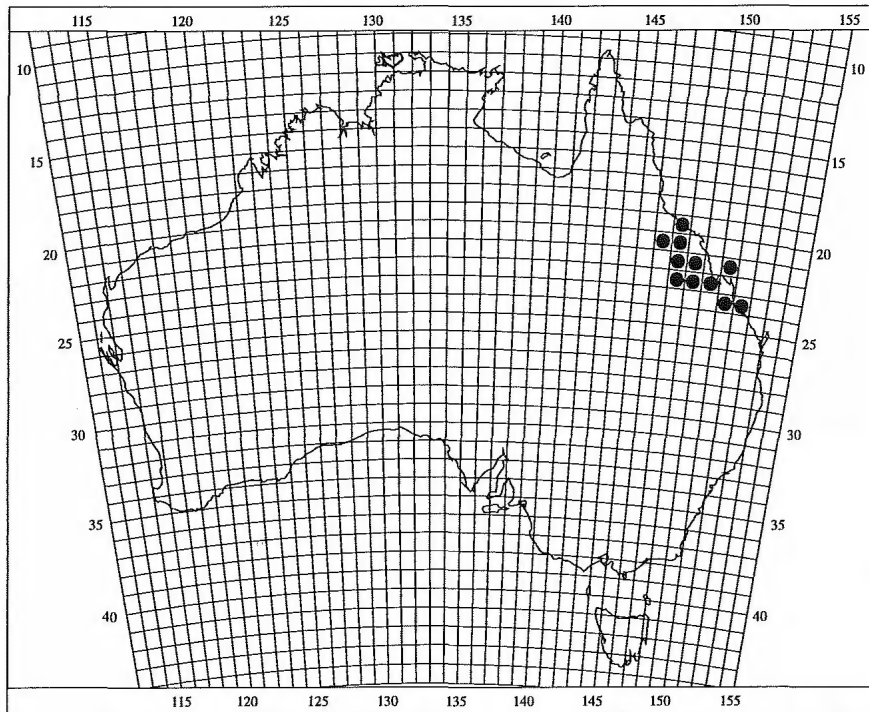
Randell appears to have ignored apparent hybrid or introgressed individuals between *E. grahamii* and *E. membranifolia* R.Br. [the combination *E. saligna* var. *membranifolia* (R.Br.) Randell is not accepted at BRI]. *Ehretia membranifolia* is sympatric with *E. grahamii* at nearly 40 localities of the latter and intermediate individuals are present at 5 of these localities (data base of Fensham in press). The label on specimen Forster 7989 & McDonald at BRI (determined as *E. grahamii* by Randell) quite clearly states that the plant appeared intermediate.

Ehretia grahamii occurs in microphyll dry rainforests where mean annual precipitation ranges between 500 and 1 000 mm, on soils derived from rocks such as basalt, granodiorite, quartzified sandstone or granite. This species is usually present in small populations of less than 1 000 individuals at the localities where I have encountered it and does not represent a significant proportion of the structural component in the vegetation.

***Ehretia grahamii* Randell, J. Adelaide Bot. Gard. 15: 94 (1993). Type: Queensland. LEICHHARDT DISTRICT: Pine Mountain, State Forest 79, 21°44'S, 148°50'E, 21 Apr 1991, P.I. Forster 7998 & W.J. McDonald (holo: BRI; iso: K, L, MEL, QRS).**

Ehretia (N. Gibson 793). Forster *et al.* (1991: A–179).

Selection of specimens examined: Queensland. NORTH KENNEDY DISTRICT: Mingela Bluff, 19°53'S, 146°45'E, Jan 1992, Forster 9421 & Bean (BRI, K, MEL, QRS); Leichhardt Range, 20°03'S, 147°03'E, Jul 1993, Fensham 944 (BRI). SOUTH KENNEDY DISTRICT: 'Kerale', 20°36'S, 147°41'E, Apr 1993, Fensham 896 (BRI); Mt Blackjack, 'Weetalaba', 21°00'S, 147°55'E, Jul 1993, Forster 13412 & Tucker (BRI); 'Exmoor', 21°00'S, 148°06'E, Dec 1992, Fensham 463 (BRI); Percy Island, Nov 1987, Innis 327 (BRI); Crest of Leichhardt Range along pipe line road between Hillalong & Turrawulla, Sep 1978, Anderson [AQ265922] (BRI); Hazlewood Gorge, SSW of Eungella, 21°15'S, 148°22'E, Jan 1993, Forster 12716 & Pearson (BRI, K, L, MEL, QRS); 'Strathmore', 22°31'S, 147°42'E,



Map 1. Distribution of *Ehretia grahamii* in 1° grid squares.

Aug 1992, *Fensham* 299 (BRI). LEICHHARDT DISTRICT: Mt Britton Mine, Homevale Station, Dec 1973, *Stanton in Webb & Tracey* 13723 (BRI); Back Creek, 'Killamey', Connors Range, 22°19'S, 149°14'E, Mar 1993, *Fensham* 748 (BRI); 32 km S of Lotus Creek, [Old] Bruce Highway (Marlborough - Sarina [road]), 22°35'S, 149°13'E, Aug 1977, *Williams* 77196 (BRI); Clements Creek, 'Clive', 22°48'S, 149°25'E, Sep 1993, *Fensham* 1230 (BRI). PORT CURTIS DISTRICT: S.F.60, Rundle Range, *Gibson* 752 (BRI); S.F.60, Rundle Range, N side of Telegraph road, 23°38'S, 150°58'E, Aug 1985, *Gibson* 764 (BRI); Targinie, Mt Larcom Range, 23°45'S, 151°04'E, May 1986, *Gibson* 793 (BRI); 2 km SE of Butlerville, northern end of Mt Larcom Range, 23°46'S, 151°04'E, Jan 1988, *Forster* 3383 & *Gibson* (BRI).

Putative hybrids or introgressed individuals between *E. grahamii* and *E. membranifolia*: Queensland. SOUTH KENNEDY DISTRICT: Mt Sambo, 20°58'S, 147°53'E, Dec 1992, *Fensham* 461 (BRI); Nebo to Sarina road, 2 km S of Pine Mt, S.F. 79, 21°46'S, 148°50'E, Apr 1991, *Forster* 7989 & *McDonald* (BRI).

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